



THE ROMULUS ROMAN

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VOTE

Remember to vote
Tuesday
August 8

Vol. 118, No. 31

News you can use, news you can trust

DATE DUE

Talented pets sought for late night show
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The Scene

Miami Vice won't arrest audiences
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Local actor stars at Purple Rose
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Sports

Compuware gets make over
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Replanting

The Romulus Department of Public Works received two truckloads of saplings last week that will be planted to replace 950 trees killed by Emerald Ash Borer infestation. The saplings were purchased using grant funds provided by the U.S. Department of Agriculture Forest Service and matching funds from the city. Richard Suiter (above), the assistant director of the department is heading up the re-planting. "We will begin planting in the Farms subdivision and continue throughout the city," he said. Last year, trees were planted along the Beverly Road and Fourth Street area.

Challengers confident about success and voter response

Molly Tippen
Staff Writer

Candidates vying for two statewide offices are confident voters will respond to their efforts to win a state representative or senate seat when they file into the polls next Tuesday.

Two Republicans campaigning for the open District 8 are Fred Kalsic (R-Taylor) and Guy Addison Rupert (R-Southgate). The top vote getter will face incumbent State Senator Ray Basham (D-Taylor). District 8 is made up of the cities of Romulus, Wayne, Allen Park, Ecorse, Lincoln Park, Melvindale, Riverview, Southgate, Taylor and Wyandotte.

Kalsic — who has run for state representative and county commissioner in the past — said he's confident a Republican with good ideas can win the District 8 seat despite its heavily Democratic roots.

"I'm not a typical Republican," he said. "I'm college educated and I have a blue-collar job, and I'm a member of a union, and



Ben Armstrong

those things are more in line with the people in the district. I'm for a small government and against reckless spending, and there aren't very many people in Lansing that can say that."

Kalsic also said people in the district that he's talked to are more intrigued by his message than by his party.

"People are not that easily boxed in," he said. "I know Republicans who — if they ever went into a country club — would either be the busboy or the waiter."

In District 22 (Taylor and Romulus), incumbent State Rep. Hoon-Yung Hopgood (D-Taylor) will compete against Democratic



Hoon-Yung Hopgood

challenger Ken Johnson. The top vote getter will then take on Ben Armstrong (R-Taylor).

Johnson — who has the extra burden of running against an incumbent — said he's not concerned about a lack of name recognition in Romulus.

"I think things are so bad at a statewide level that people are seriously starting wonder what they're getting from our representation," he said. "People that I have had a chance to talk to say they're dissatisfied. They're struggling with (increased utility) bills, gas prices, (and) job security. Things are really bad out there."

Both districts are heavily Democratic, with less than 50 per-



Ray Basham

cent voting for Republicans in the last two elections.

For his part, Hopgood said he's confident his constituency will turn out the vote in his favor Tuesday.

"We're just encouraging people to get out there and vote," he said. "This is an important election, and I'm comfortable with the job I've done so far."

"I don't think you can ever relax too much in the final days of campaigning, though," he added. "I'll still be working to get out the vote."

The city has reported no changes in polling locations for this election. The polls are open from 7 a.m. to 8 p.m.

this later this year," he said. "There are a limited number of openings."

Out of district students — through a Schools of Choice program or non-residents who have not disclosed where they live — have been a sore point for Romulus residents.

Last year, about 100 parents attended a school board meeting after published reports indicated that several students attending classes at Romulus High School might not live within school district boundaries. Many residents expressed anger that non-residents from communities that pay lower taxes were taking advantage of services at the district, while they pay for it.

But Weiss, who was hired this spring to replace Joel Carr, who vehemently opposed Schools of Choice, said the district needs to do what they're neighbors are doing to maintain enrollment levels.

"All of the other districts in the area are doing this, and we need to make sure we keep up with our neighbors," he said. "We're surrounded by districts that are offering choice, and

See **Choice**, page 3

Local artists to join arts colony

Andrea King
Staff Writer

Area artists will soon hit the streets as they bring their work and skills to the area during the annual Belleville Art Colony.

The event—organized by the Belleville Area Council for the Arts—will take place from 4-8 p.m. on Aug. 10 and 17 and an additional day on Aug. 24 during the Taste Of Belleville, located at Fourth Street Square on Main Street. This year, the colony will include area artists Jane Kovach of Belleville, Nicki Pijanowski of Belleville, Betty Jean Morris of Belleville and many others.

Originally on Friday nights, the event was changed to Thursday to increase participation, according to Phil Miller, treasurer of the arts council.

"We're trying to get more interest and younger people, too, so we targeted different art fairs and schools around the area," he said. "Maybe we can even turn this into an art show someday and not just a colony."

In 1997, the city, the central business community and the arts council developed the first art colony. The concept of an 'artist in residence' brought professional artists to Belleville to show and encourage other artists to join their efforts. The art colony started in August with artists in attendance every Tuesday, Thursday and Sunday of the month,

according to the arts council.

Since then, the days have shortened for the event, but not the participation or level of talent. The colony typically gets about 15-20 artists who create artwork right on the spot.

Kovach said she will be creating her art pieces using watercolor. She said so far, her inspirations will be the orange wild daylilies on Sumpter Road.

"I love the outdoors and the trees. They're beautiful," said Kovach. "I'll also be concentrating on one specific building, but it's a surprise."

Pijanowski, who will be participating for the third year, will use graphite pencil to create portraits. She has already won awards in the past for her 'Glamour Lucy' portrait of Lucille Ball.

"I'm not sure what I'm going to do this year," said Pijanowski. "I'm still thinking it over."

Morris, who won Best Local Scene last year, said she will be using oils to paint hollyhock flowers. This will be the third year she has participated in the colony.

The artists will also get a chance to win cash prizes and awards after the colony is finished. The ceremony will take place at 5:30 p.m. on Sept. 7 at the Century 21 Realty building, located at 309 Main St.

For more information about the art colony or to register for \$15, contact the council office at (734) 697-8123.

Police Log

2 caught breaking into high school

Two Belleville juveniles were arrested after they were caught breaking and entering at Belleville High School on Sunday.

According to Belleville Police Chief Gene Taylor, the two suspects were found Sunday, July 30 after the alarm went off at the high school. The two boys were caught outside of the school, but officials also learned they were inside the building as well, Taylor said. Police are not sure if they broke into the building or if a door was left unlocked, Taylor added.

The suspects are being charged with breaking and entering. Both juveniles were released to their parents, Taylor said.

Attempted jersey robbery

A 19-year-old Belleville resident and a 14-year-old Bellville resident are both OK after people tried to steal the clothes off their backs recently.

The victims were walking down Liberty Street in downtown Belleville on July 22, when they were approached by two cars asking for money, according to Belleville Police Chief Gene Taylor. The drivers then pulled over in a nearby parking lot, approached the teens and tried to get the jersey shirts they were wearing, he said. The victims ran to a nearby police patrol car. Nothing was stolen, Taylor said.

Belleville boy hit while riding bike

A 9-year-old Belleville boy is recovering after he was hit by a car recently while riding his bike.

According to Det. Marc Abdilla of the Van Buren Township Police Department, the boy was struck at about 8:17 p.m. on July 18 by a vehicle that was driving on

Belleville Road near the Harmony Lane subdivision in the township. The boy was transported to University of Michigan Hospital where he was listed in critical condition that day.

The driver—a 43-year-old Dearborn resident—received no injuries during the accident. The boy has two broken legs and a broken hand, but is now in stable condition, Abdilla said.

The accident remains under investigation. Anyone who has any information is asked to contact Abdilla at (734) 699-8922 or Sgt. Fred Yono at (734) 699-8907.

Belleville man pleads guilty to second-degree murder

Belleville resident Ronnie Jackson II pleaded guilty to second-degree murder recently from a fatal March accident that killed a Livonia man.

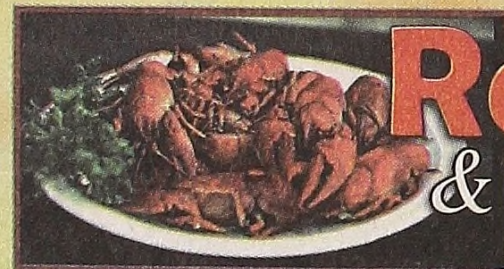
Jackson, 34, was charged with five felonies, including manslaughter with a motor vehicle and two counts of operating while impaired causing serious injury. He was sentenced on July 18, which could mean 7½ to 20 years in prison.

The fatal nine-car crash happened at about 6:50 p.m. March 20 at Michigan Avenue and Oakwood in Dearborn. Jackson was driving a 1999 Dodge Caravan traveling westbound on Michigan Avenue at a high rate of speed when he side-swiped several cars and rear-ended one of three cars at the end of a left turn lane, police said.

Livonia resident Kenneth Brzezinski, 52, was in the first vehicle struck in the left turn lane. He died from the chain-reaction collision, according to police.

The crash also injured two women, one of whom was pregnant and treated for non-life-threatening injuries.

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Many beat the heat at new center

Molly Tippen
Staff Writer

Record high temperatures and extra stress on the area power grid prompted Romulus officials to open up the new city senior center as a cooling station.

Linda Norman, the director of senior services, said the center is open to anyone who needs to find a way to beat the heat.

“We did this once before, and it was well-received,” she said. “But it wasn’t anywhere near as hot. I saw on TV where they were telling people to go to the mall or Meijer’s, and I thought our senior center would be more comfortable.”

On Monday and Tuesday, temperatures reached record highs as thermometers reached 98 and even 100 degrees. Norman said many seniors, who live on a fixed income are struggling with increased energy costs, and are therefore not inclined to use fans and air conditioning.

“I know at least one senior who lives alone and keeps her windows closed,” she said. “She doesn’t have air conditioning, and she won’t use a fan because she can’t afford to pay more for electricity. Hers is not an isolated case.”

Rates for natural gas and electricity have gone up for everyone, and the decision was made early on to utilize the center on hot days, Norman said.

“Things are so tough right now; people are getting laid off,” she said.

Participants will need to provide transportation to and from the center.

Though beverages are available, residents will be asked to provide their own food. Children will need to be supervised by an adult and no pets are allowed, Norman said.

The Senior Center will be open from 8 a.m. to dusk on those days that the temperature is above 80 degrees and the humidity is above 75 percent.

The Romulus Senior Center is located at 36525 Bibbins. For more information, call (734) 955-4120.

Choice - Plan will build enrollment in district, bring more state funding

FROM PAGE 1

another charter school opening near one of our facilities could take more. We need to use every tool at our disposal to hold on to students. If we didn’t do that, we’d have to look at closing buildings.”

During the past five years, the district has lost about 750 students. Weiss said several factors have contributed to the drop,



Taking care

The new Western Wayne Family Health Center was dedicated in Inkster Monday afternoon. The clinic, which is the result of a partnership with the county, Oakwood Healthcare System and Starfish Family Services, will help provide all Wayne County residents with affordable health care. Patric Wimberly, of the center board of directors; Dr. Ouida Cash, the CEO Starfish Family Services; Senator Debbie Stabenow; Inkster Mayor Hilliard Hampton; Gerald Fitzgerald, president and CEO of Oakwood Healthcare and Congressman John Dingell plant an oak tree on the grounds of the clinic. Hampton (right) spoke to the crowd.



Public invited to magic show in Westland

Meghan Chatham
Staff Writer

Monday could be a magic day for families in Westland.

That’s when the Westland Parks and Recreation Department and WMGC 105.1 FM will present the annual ‘Magic Monday’ family event.

“You can’t go wrong,” said Bob Kosowski, director of Westland Parks and Recreation. “There’s something for everyone.”

Past participants may recognize some entertainers with familiar—if greasepaint-covered—faces.

“We do it in conjunction with the Clowns Around Redford in honor of National Clown Week,” said Margaret Martin, program supervisor for Westland Parks and Recreation. The group, which is an area organization of professional clowns, has been a regular part of the Magic Monday event for about five years.

The clowns are expected to

delight audiences by performing magic tricks, painting faces, and creating balloon animals. Although most of their efforts will be free of charge, Martin said that they would be happy to accept donations for their services.

“Any money that the clowns raise goes to charity,” she said.

Among the free activities available will be inflatable, moonwalk-style games, courtesy of Bobby’s Bouncers, and a variety of special activities in the gymnasium.

If the weather is nice, participants will also have an opportunity to enjoy the pool and water slide for a nominal fee. Admission to the outdoor pool will be \$3 per adult and \$2 per child.

The Concrete Jungle Skate Park will be available, too. Participation is weather permitting and will be available for \$3 for children and \$5 for adults. Participants will need to bring

their own skateboard or roller blades. Helmets, kneepads, and elbow pads will be available for rent.

“It’s fun and it’s a great way to enjoy some time together as a family,” Martin said.

Although everyone is welcome, Martin said that the bulk of the entertainments would be geared for preschool to elementary school aged children.

According to Kosowski, the event is only one of many ways the department tries to provide residents with low cost recreation opportunities.

In addition to the facilities showcased during the Magic Monday event, visitors are invited into the nearby park which features a 30,000 square foot Imagination Playstation playscape, a Tot Town filled with playhouses, a catch-and-release fishing pond, a walking track, and courts for tennis, volleyball, basketball, and rollerblade hockey.

News in brief

Superintendent will speak at chamber event

Carl J. Weiss, the new superintendent of Romulus Community Schools, will be the guest speaker at the Greater Romulus Chamber of Commerce quarterly business luncheon on Tuesday Sept. 19.

Weiss, who was hired in May to lead the district after Joel Carr announced his retirement, will speak about the role schools play in business development and the community as a whole.

The luncheon will be at the Best Western Gateway International Hotel. Registration starts at 11:30 am and lunch is at noon. The cost of the luncheon is \$15 for members and \$18 for non-members.

The hotel is located at 9191 Wickham Road in Romulus. Reservations can be made by calling the chamber at (734) 326-4290 or by email at info@romuluschamber.org.

Golf outing scheduled

Golfers are likely already polishing their nine irons.

That’s because the Greater Romulus Chamber of Commerce has scheduled the Annual Chamber Golf Outing for Thursday, Aug. 24 at the Woodlands of Van Buren golf course.

Registration begins at 10 a.m. with a continental breakfast. Golfers will be able to use the practice range to warm up before the shotgun start begins at 11 a.m.

The golf outing is one of the biggest fundraisers the chamber has each year, and proceeds fund year-round chamber activities.

The cost is \$120 per golfer which includes golf, a continental breakfast, lunch at the turn and dinner with awards and prizes. Dinner and door prize tickets are \$40. Sponsorships are available.

For more information about the outing, call Karen La Belle at (734) 326-4290 or David B. Goodwin at (734) 287-2400, or e-mail the chamber at info@romuluschamber.org.

Crafters wanted

St. Aloysius Church in Romulus is seeking crafters and vendors for the 26th Annual Festival Craft Show.

The craft show is scheduled for Friday, Aug. 25 to Sunday, Aug. 27. A donation of \$50 is required for the weekend.

For more information about the fair and craft show, call festival co-chairman Rob McLachlan at (734) 941-3829.

OPINION

Our Van Buren choice

Voters in van Buren Township should remember one thing when they decide who will best fill out a vacant term on the board of trustees:

Lianne Clair deserves to keep the job.

Clair was appointed in April to fill the vacated seat and she's done an admirable job since then. She deserved the opportunity to fill out the remainder of the term, which expires in Nov. 2008.

We like Larry Fix, too, for his ideas about respecting the past of the community while preparing for the future. He's said he wants to be a fresh face on the board and help guide the community through the upcoming expected growth spurt.

With about four months under her belt, though, Clair is still a fresh face on the board. At the same time, she's learned more about the issues facing the township, gone through a budget session and still cultivated an eagerness to get involved. Her experience in accounting, reporting, audits, insurance, computer training and human resource matters will serve the township well on a number of levels, too.

That experience lifts her qualifications above Fix's, although we hope to see him around during the next election cycle. It's always good to see different people involved in politics, but for now Clair is the smarter choice.

Remember to vote on Aug. 8.

Subtle, but still a start

Sometimes, change is subtle.

That's the case in the City of Wayne, where officials have implanted the first of several recommendations to come from the Andrews University study.

The recommendation is a relatively simple one: to reinstate on street parking in some sections of the downtown core. The Wayne 2020 committee last week greeted the change enthusiastically. It would allow for parking on: the north side of Park Street, between Biddle Street and the Community Living Services (CLS) property; the east and west sides of Biddle Street from Main Street to Michigan Avenue; the south side of Park Street from Newberry Street to the CLS property; and the north side of Veterans Drive from Second Street to the cul-de-sac.

Like we said, it's pretty subtle.

It's an important foundation to put in place, though, that will help pay dividends should the city act on the remainder of the proposal, which will help them build a new downtown core. On street parking was one of the main things that helped contribute to a walkable neighborhood—which is what the study and implementation phases seeks to create between the two sides of Michigan Avenue.

It's the first thing businesses look for when they decide how much space they need. It helps slow down traffic because it is a natural calming effect. It helps promote business in a couple of ways, too: it makes the city look busier, more viable and customers tend to walk to more than one location once they find a good parking spot on the street.

City officials said they would encourage parking at those locations, too, in hopes that nearby facilities use them.

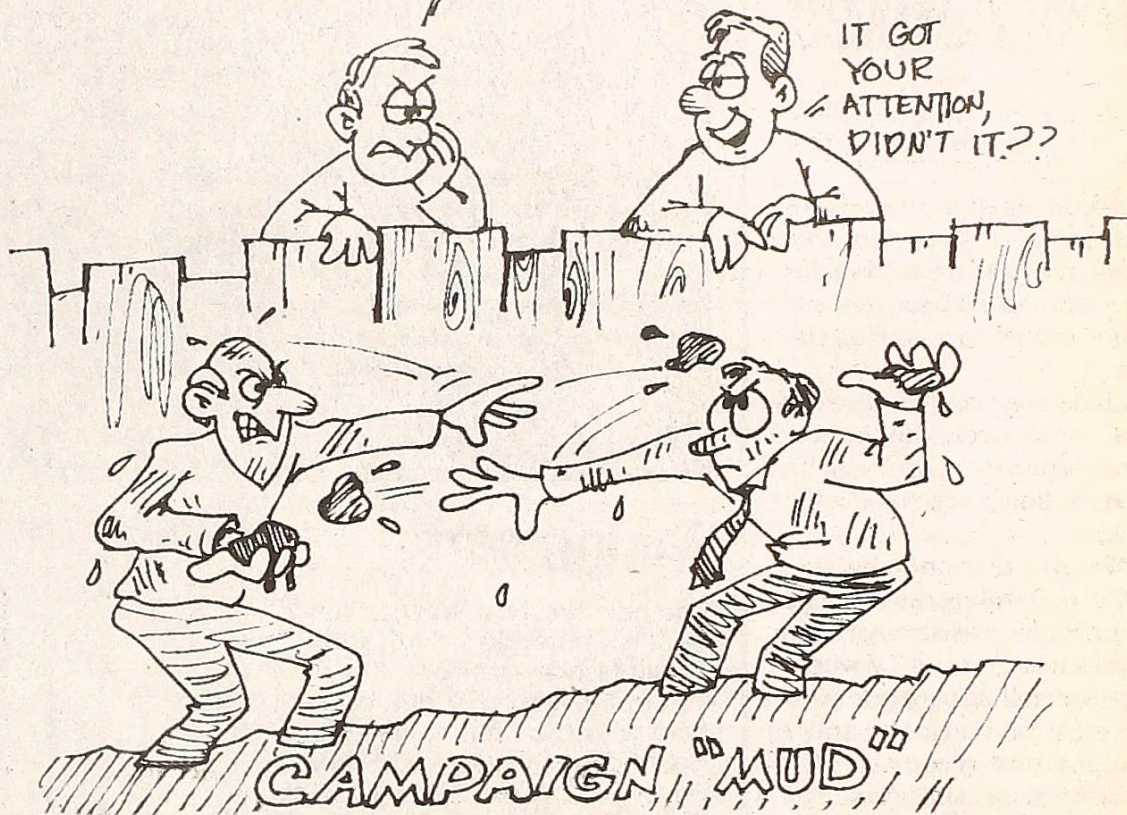
It's been a while since the study has been completed. The students from the architectural program visited Wayne nearly a year ago, finished up their proposal in December, polished it soon after that and delivered the glossy results to the city earlier this year.

By itself, the document is a lengthy thing to go through. The recommendations there will take years to take on, much less finish and there's a great potential that this valuable study will get lost in the interim.

Hopefully, this subtle change will lead to more, though. It brings a relatively quick success to the long process, showing that city officials intend to do more with it.

Like we said, it's a subtle change, but a positive one. We hope to see more in the future.

WHY DO YOU THINK THEY DO THIS ?!



'Permit' me my skepticism

It would be nice if, once in a while, a politician or political candidate would simply own up to their mistakes.

We're a forgiving culture, aren't we? Who among us cannot accept a simple apology and move on?

That's what I hoped for from Beth Stewart, a candidate for the 20th District of the House of Representatives, after concerns were brought up about her use of a Plymouth Historical Museum bulk mail permit to send out campaign literature: "Sorry, my bad. I should've known better. Consider it corrected."

Not so.

I had other concerns, too, particularly a full-page 'Message from Beth Stewart' in the June Plymouth Historical Society Museum Memo mailed out to friends and supporters of the museum. It's a more blatant use of the museum's assets—a regular newsletter—and to me, it sounds more like campaign literature than anything else.

Stewart responded to that and other allegations in a letter printed in this newspaper last week. "I

informed the museum membership in our newsletter that I was taking a leave of absence to run for office—period," she wrote.

Come on.

First of all, this letter starts out: "As many of you may know..." and then goes on to inform that she's seeking the State Representative seat. What follows is a list of what she's done for the museum, followed by a clarifying paragraph about how she's taking a leave of absence from the museum to keep it above the 'political fray'.

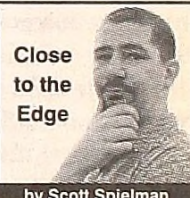
It ends with the line: "I hope to take this same spirit and these skills to Lansing to work for the

betterment of our community and the great State of Michigan!"

How is that not campaign rhetoric?

I'm sure any of the other candidates for this—or any other office—would love to have access to that kind of distribution system.

See **Doubt**, page 5



Close to the Edge

by Scott Spielman

Voters control future of community

The recall of five members of the Van Buren Public School Board is now in the hands of voters.

The language for the petition was approved recently by the Wayne County Board of Election. However, voters won't see the question on the ballot until the November election at the earliest. The group supporting the recall must gather enough signatures to support the removal of school board members Robert Coutts, Toni Hunt, Keith Johnston, Ralph Nodwell and Martha Toth.

Ron Yurchak, who heads the recall group, said he doesn't have children in the school district, but he's looking at the issue from the angle of what 'people like him' can afford in taxes.

Yurchak also said the board members continue to pursue plans for a new high school and other upgrades after the bond issues continue to fail. He said these failed ballots have cost in excess of \$25,000 for election costs and other expenditures of time and resources that could have gone to education.

Good point, those funds could have most definitely gone to education (or toward new high school upgrades). Does that mean the recall group doesn't support better facilities for the school district? School board members said they're not sur-

prised about the way this topic is being handled or that the petition language was approved.

Hunt said, "A recall can say anything as long as the language is clear and just because it got approved, doesn't mean it's true because it's not." School officials do not currently continue to pursue plans for a new high school, she said.

Hunt also asked if residents "could afford their community to go down the tubes?"

Also true. Is this recall the real answer to the new facilities question?

I don't think so. I still believe the need is there for a new high school and upgrades to the facilities.

The recall group said they will start to host meetings about their position to remove the five school board members from office. Anyone is welcome to attend and contribute to the cause, according to Yurchak.

School board members said it's ultimately the voters choice.

Whichever side residents decide to join, remember the true issues at stake: children and their educational future.



King's Court

by Andrea King

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Belleville police plan Operation ID

The Belleville Police Department has teamed up with Anheisher Busch to supply Operation ID kits for area businesses.

As part of the "We ID" program, about 30 Belleville businesses will receive the kits to discourage minors from purchasing alcohol. Each kit contains valuable equipment to assist businesses in checking identification.

According to the Partnership for a Drug-Free America, all measures of teen alcohol use were significantly decreased since 1998 because of the program.

Doubt

FROM PAGE 4

My concern here is not that she necessarily did anything illegal. My concern is that she says one thing—that she wants to separate herself from the museum—and does another—apparently, for no other reason than it's more convenient.

Was there another way for her to inform the membership? Certainly. She could've typed up and sent out the letter another way. She didn't have to borrow the museum's permit—she could've purchased her own. Candidates for office do this all the time. It's less convenient to follow the rules and not look for ways to circumvent them, but that's the name of the game.

She didn't do those things and when they were brought up she then said: Oh, it's the Mark Abbo campaign doing this. They're attacking the museum. They're trying to drag down this venerable institution. It's unconscionable. Meanwhile, we in the media are accused of not doing our job if we don't follow up on it or doing the biddings of these insidious other candidates if we do.

I still think they're valid questions, no matter where they came from. All along, she has said she's learned something of the political process as the wife of the current State Representative John Stewart. I just think that, as a director of the museum for 17 years who is married to a lawyer who is a three-term elected official, she should know better. It's hard for me, too, to keep pointing this out, because I like Beth—

The program will be ongoing, according to Belleville Police Chief Gene Taylor.

For more information or to receive "We ID" materials to help get the message out, contact William Ventola, coordinator of consumer affairs and education, at (734) 946-6200.

she's a perfectly capable, likable and charming woman and probably the only reason John was elected in the first place. I just hoped for a better foundation for her campaign.

Maybe she hasn't violated any campaign finance laws, but it was her choices that called these things into question. Perhaps the only thing she's guilty of is doing one thing while saying another.

Maybe she has picked up a thing or two about the political process, after all.

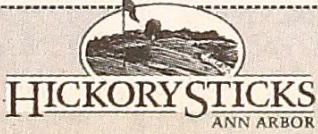
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TV producers seeking 'Stupid Pet Tricks' for show

Meghan Chatham
Staff Writer

As scouts for *The Late Show with David Letterman* descend on Westland, those offbeat skills Fido learned could finally pay off.

The Michigan Humane Society will host auditions for the Stupid Pet Tricks segment of *The Late Show with David Letterman* from 1-4 p.m. Aug. 20.

"The segment is terrifically entertaining and fun, but most importantly, it celebrates the immeasurable value of the human and animal bond," said Michael Robbins, director of marketing and communications for the Michigan Humane Society.

From hamsters to horses, pets of every kind are welcome to show off their talents in the hopes of impressing the producers of the show. Each stunt must be safe, humane, and appropriate for both the animals and humans involved in order to be considered for use in the program. Beyond that, however, anything goes.

"There will be a talent producer and a film crew taping every act," said Robbins.

In the weeks following the audition, the producers of the show will review the tapes from the talent search in Westland as well as from similar events from other areas of the country. The acts they deem the best will be invited to New York for an appearance on the *Late Show*.

"The uniqueness of the trick is what will win the day," he said.

Although it is too soon to tell just how many auditions will be offered, Robbins said that the

open calls in other areas attracted 30-40 performers on average. In some communities, however, 100 pets performed. He added that although the registration process just began, the humane society has already received a number of registrations, including one for a gifted pony.

This is the only Stupid Pet Tricks audition scheduled in the Midwest through the end of the year. Animals from throughout Michigan and possibly from neighboring states are expected to participate.

Robbins urged anyone with a talented pet to try out.

"It's fun—and how many opportunities are there for people to get a chance at national recognition?" he said.

Spectators are welcome to watch the talented animals perform, but audience members should leave their pets at home.

The Michigan Humane Society has been working with *Late Show* representatives for months on the audition. Organizers elected to host the event at the Westland shelter because it is both the most state-of-the-art facility in the area and the facility that could best accommodate the logistical

needs of the audition.

The Berman Center for Animal Care is located at 900 North Newburgh Road in Westland. Pre-registration is expected for the audition. For more information or to register, call the Michigan Humane Society at (866) 648-6263 or visit www.michiganhumane.org



Fair begins Monday

Andrea King
Staff Writer

On Monday, the 60th annual Wayne County Fair will begin the weeklong festivities.

The fair, located at 10871 Quirk Road in Belleville, will be open from 9 a.m. to 10 p.m. Aug. 7-10 and from noon to 10 p.m. on Aug. 11 and 12. It will include live entertainment, animals, arts and crafts, a talent show, competitions and other daily events and exhibits.

Festival Organizer Karen Slebodnik, said this year organizers have planned new and different things in which visitors can participate.

"We are trying to rebuild and get all our friendly neighbors back into the fairgrounds," she said. "There's no carnival, but we've replaced it with inflatables, which truly is better for the people."

To start the event, poultry, swine, horse and sheep shows will take place on Aug. 7. The following day, the events will include: Williamston woodcarving, pony rides, a petting zoo, a rock wall, a movie evening, the cutest pet and baby contests and the start of the talent show. The talent search will take place every

night of the fair starting at 7 p.m. Prizes include: a first place award of \$200, a second place award of \$100 and a third place award of \$50.

On Wednesday, festivities will continue with rabbit, horse, dairy and beef shows throughout the day; as well as a bubble corral; a movie evening and the main event: Metro Motorsport Show.

"We'll also be mixing in several new things this year: an alligator show, foam dancing and other free activities," said Slebodnik. "An interesting one will be cow bingo. People will purchase tickets to the blocks that will be spray-painted on the grass. Wherever the cow relieves himself will be the winning block."

On Thursday, visitors can enjoy other shows, like the livestock auction, the home-maker awards and Tough Wheels.

The 4-H Club will also host several activities throughout the fair, such as mentoring education, a family and friend's day and other children's activities.

Gate fees and activity prices vary depending on time and day. For more information call (734) 697-7002 or visit www.waynecountyfair.net.

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THE SCENE

Miami Vice

This one won't knock anybody's socks off

Miami Vice is aptly named.

The film version of the 1980s television drama grabs hold and doesn't let go.

Unfortunately, it's the same grip as a machinist's vice—painful if caught in it.

The only saving grace is the direction of Michael Mann, who was the executive producer of the original 80s-era "Miami Vice" television show. Mann is the same man who brought the movie-viewing world *Heat*, which places Al Pacino and Robert DeNiro—two of this era's greatest actors—on the same screen at the same time, and the more recent and exceptionally made *Collateral* with Tom Cruise and Jamie Foxx.

In *Collateral*, Mann makes the seedy backstreets of Los Angeles almost seem beautiful and at times peaceful with his grainy, blurred style—a welcome contradiction—much like the picture author Don DeLillo paints of New York in his book *Cosmopolis*.

However, the same techniques Mann used to make L.A. picturesque makes the filthy underbelly of the criminal world of a more beautiful Miami look even dirtier.

Mann is in top form with his unique style of directing, consisting of an arsenal of off-centered frames, odd angles, hand-held camera movements, interesting close-

ups, blurred foregrounds and a dark and gritty atmosphere. He even continues filming with a blood-spattered lens in one scene.

He also deserves credit and respect for stripping the main characters, Miami detectives Sonny Crocket and Ricardo Tubbs, of their Reagan-era leisure suits with pastel undershirts and sockless swaggers. Crocket, played by a greasy-haired Colin Farrell, and Foxx's Tubbs still look dapper, but more up-to-date. The down side is: it's hard to shake the image of Don Johnson and Philip Michael Thomas (the original Sonny and Rico) out of the picture. The movie could have easily gone the other way and become a cheesy spoof of the television original like the TV-turned-to-big-screen *Starsky & Hutch* and *The Dukes of Hazzard*.

The other downfall—and a pretty big one at that—is the script, which is also written by Mann—most of all the dialogue and its delivery. Most scenes sounded like the dialogue was floating up from the bottom of the Miami River while entrapped in cement while, at other times, characters' accents were too thick as they shout over gunfire or roaring boat engines.

Farrell, when you could actually understand him, sounded like he had a southern drawl and even Foxx seemed to mumble his lines. Yet, and this was hard to figure out, most of the lines came out of nowhere like they were fractions from larger pieces of dialogue and made no

sense. Mann needs to stick to directing.

The plot is another story. To start, Mann plops the audience down in a crowded Miami dance club with no clue to what is going on or who anybody is except Crocket and Tubbs. It's confusing whether Miami's best are after a prostitution ring or a human trafficking boss or both. It doesn't matter because the issue is unresolved at the end of the scene and at the end of the movie.

Next up is the slaughter of undercover federal agents. Apparently there is a high-level leak the led to the agents' murders and the slaughter of an informant's family close to Crocket and Tubbs.

Those events push the two oversized suit-wearing undercover cops on the hunt for a Cuban international drug and weapons trafficker, Montoya (Luis Tosar), and to figure out where the leak sprung.

True identity and fabrication become blurred as Crocket and Tubbs get too involved with the case, putting their friends and loved ones at risk. The storyline also includes some killers who are members of the Aryan Brotherhood and

a mid-level drug

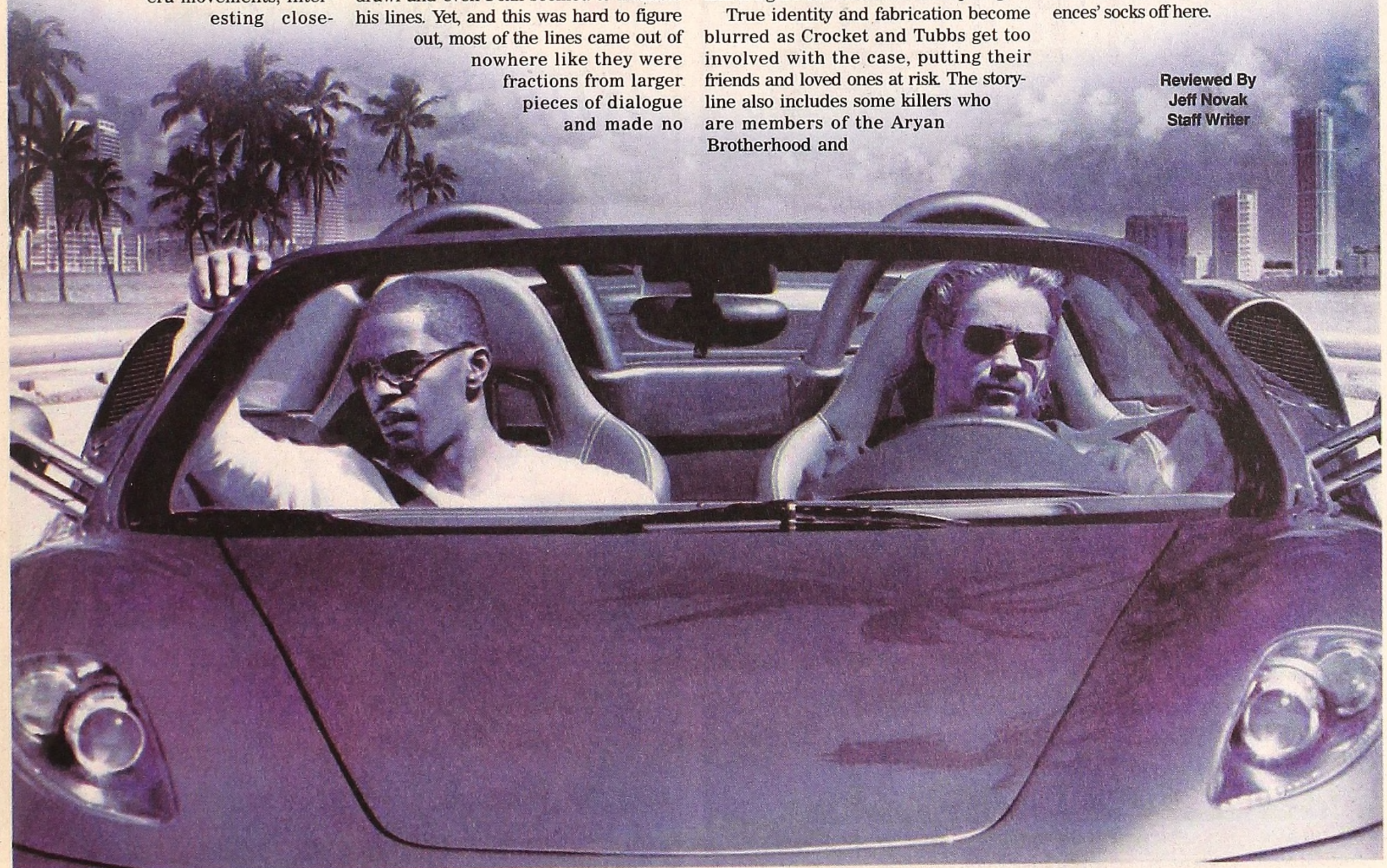
boss, Jose Yero (John Ortiz), who doesn't trust Crocket and Tubbs from the start.

To make things even more difficult, Crocket falls for Isabella, Montoya's wife, thickening the dangerous undercover plan and pulling him further into the crime world.

The plot moves slower than expected leaving only fast cars, fast planes and even faster boats to carry the film from one scene to the next until the final shootout where all hell breaks loose. But after sifting through a garbled script and plot and deciphering bad lines, even that isn't enough of a reward for moviegoers.

The Miami sun is hot but not as grueling as the script that casts a shadow on Mann's brilliant directing. I have a feeling that if the film had any other title than *Miami Vice* it would have been sizzling. But there is little that will knock audiences' socks off here.

Reviewed By
Jeff Novak
Staff Writer



Picture this

Comic books aren't child's play for this local author

Kevin Hill
Staff Writer

Comic books didn't particularly fascinate Gary Reed when he was a child.

He never really liked the idea of superheroes and when he got his master's degree, his dissertation was in biology, not literature.

Yet Reed, a Canton Township resident, helped launch several writers and illustrators with his independent publishing company in the 1990s and remains in demand as a writer himself.

Reed owned a chain of four comic book stores in the 1980s, starting with Readers' Exchange in Westland.

"They started off as book stores," said Reed. "I moved into comics because I wanted to attract kids."

Illustrators such as Guy Davis and Vince Locke would come around to check out the latest titles. When they had trouble finding publishers for their own work, Reed started Caliber Comics. Having dabbled with poetry and short stories in college, Reed gave comic book writing a shot, as well.

An early effort, the series "Baker Street" which Reed co-created with Davis, got a lot of notice, including a nomination

for a Harvey, tops in the comic world.

"I said 'Oh, this is easy,'" Reed said.

Caliber published more than 1,300 titles before Reed got out of publishing in 2000. The owner contributed his fair share of material.

"I was the fastest and cheapest writer I knew," he quipped.

He gained more recognition on projects such as "Saint Germaine" and "Red Diaries," a conspiracy thriller linking the death of Marilyn Monroe and the assassination of President John F. Kennedy. Caliber Comics also gave birth to "The Crow," which was eventually turned into a feature film starring the late Brandon Lee.

After a decade in the publishing world, though, Reed decided to get out. He sold his comic stores during that time, too, and began to focus more on teaching biology classes at Henry Ford Community College and Schoolcraft.

As comics and graphic novels have made headway into mainstream America—evidenced by the box office and critical success of the Spiderman franchise and smaller films such as *A History of Violence* or *Road to Perdition*—Reed's work has gar-

nered renewed interest from publishers.

Two years ago, he signed a deal with a division of Simon and Schuster to reprint "Baker Street," an alternative take on the Sherlock Holmes mysteries where punks rule London.

Like his contemporaries, Reed's novels and comics often venture into dark territory.

"Evil fascinates me," he said. "It's hard to believe, because most people are good and then you see somebody like a Stalin or Hitler. To me, it's inconceivable that people like that can actually exist, but there are so many of them."

Still, he added, "I always try to instill somewhere, that there's hope."

One such example is "Saint Germaine," where the title character "steals people's memories—but he does it when they're dying. Basically, he's telling them they're going to live forever."

Reed was in Comic City in Canton last week signing copies of his newest book, a collection of the "Red Diaries" series. Another book, "Renfield," with art by Galen Showman, is due out in November.

Working these days as a freelancer, he's free to focus on his family, teaching and choosing the



Canton Township resident Gary Reed has made a living writing comics and graphic novels

projects he likes most. Like a lot of graphic novelists, he remains an ambassador for the medium.

"The thing I like about comics is it's almost like directing movies," said Reed. "You have the story there and pretty much tell it page by page, panel by panel, scene by scene," he said. "It's a great medium, comics, because you get to do...all the good parts of the writing."

Reed is in Chicago this week

for the Wizard World comic convention. He said the mainstream public has shown more interest in the medium, which has to overcome the stigma of being kid's stuff.

"To most people, comics are synonymous with superheroes," he added, "and I don't think they have to be."

For information about Reed's work visit <http://www.garyreed.net>

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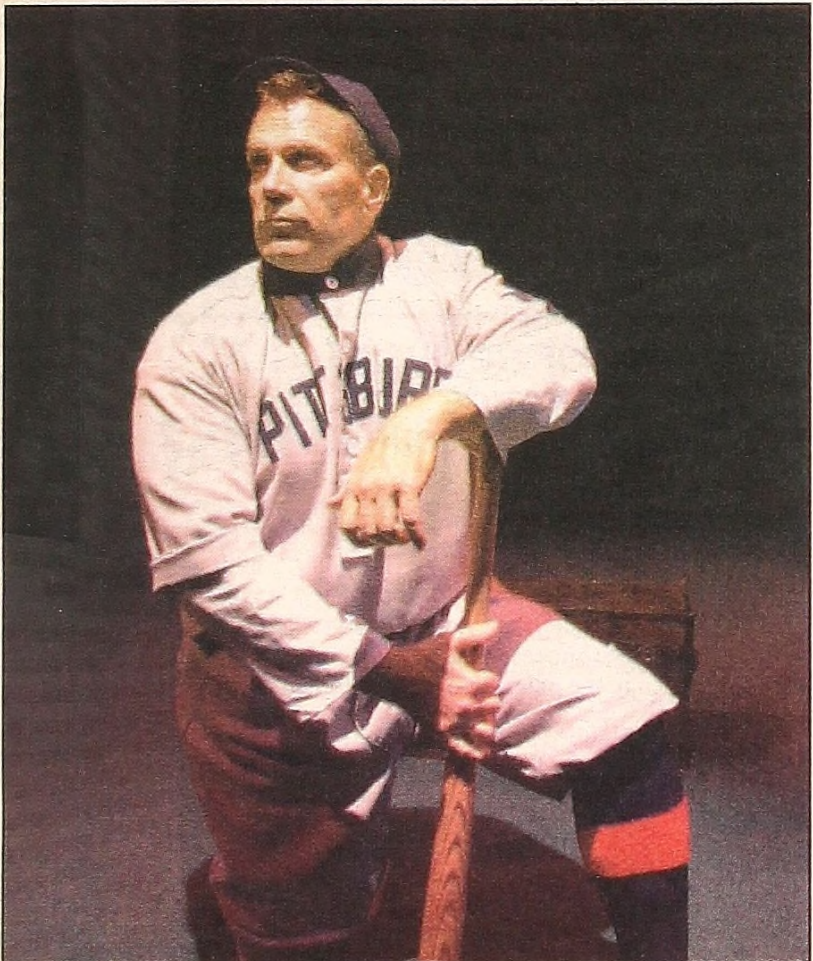
Belleville, MI 48111

Honus and me

Local actor takes lead in 'Purple Rose' production

Scott Spielman
Editor

Jim Porterfield is not a baseball player, but he plays one on stage. Porterfield, a Northville resi-



Richard Porterfield said he had to get back in shape to portray legendary ball player Honus Wagner

dent, is tasked with bringing to life one of the most legendary baseball players of all time—Honus Wagner—in an adaptation of *Honus and Me*, playing at the Purple Rose Theater in Chelsea.

“He was an amazing athlete, in terms of his speed, strength and skills,” Porterfield said. “He’s recognized as one of the best athletes of all time.”

The play, written by Steven Dietz, follows the adventures of a young boy who comes into possession of the rarest treasures in the sports world—a Honus Wagner baseball card. To make matters even more interesting, this one is a magic card, according to Alan Ribant of the Purple Rose Theater. “It brings the legendary baseball player back to life,” he said.

The youngster, an awkward boy having difficulties in life, receives some valuable life lessons from the sports icon.

“He really identifies with him,” Porterfield said.

Porterfield said he was thrilled to be offered the role. He did plenty of research into Wagner, through the internet and through Ken Burns’ documentary on the sport—the portion focusing on 1900-1910 spotlights Wagner.

He’s kind of an interesting figure,” he said. “He was a very beloved figure. He had quite a personality and was quite a storyteller.”

He also cared for the image of the sport and what it meant to young people. In fact, the reason the Honus Wagner card is so valu-

able is because so few of them were made. Originally sold by a tobacco company, the cards were marketed toward young people and Wagner didn’t think tobacco companies should advertise to children. He put the kibosh on that.

“He thought that was the right thing to do,” Porterfield said.

A large part of preparing for the role involved looking the part, he said. Porterfield was an athlete at Northville High School in his day—he didn’t play baseball, but still holds the school record for the shot put event—but he thought some additional preparation was needed.

“The biggest thing I had to do was to get back in shape to at least give the impression of a world class athlete,” Porterfield said. “It was a couple of hard weeks.”

Porterfield has been a professional actor for about 20 years, and affiliated with the Purple Rose Theater for more than 10 of those. He has also appeared in television commercials that aired during the 1980s and in industrial training videos. He left the business for a while and returned to it more than a decade ago.

He makes his living as an actor now, and subsidizes it with his knowledge of trees—he’s a consulting arborist called in to asses-

the value of trees that have been damaged through vandalism, accidents or weather-related destruction for the insurance industry.

Honus and Me continues through Sept. 2 at the theater, with a show every night. For more details, call the theater at (734) 433-ROSE.

“It was originally written as a child’s play, but we’re doing it with an realistic approach,” Porterfield said. “It’s for all ages.”

Goodrich

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FRI/SAT LS 11:00

ANT BULLY (PG) 11:20, 1:20, 3:20, 5:20, 7:20

MIAMI VICE (R) 11:00, 1:45, 4:30, 7:15, 10:00

JOHN TUCKER MUST DIE (PG-13) 11:30, 1:30, 3:30, 5:30, 7:30, 9:30

FRI/SAT LS 11:30

MONSTER HOUSE (PG) 11:10, 1:10, 3:10, 5:10, 7:10, 9:10

FRI/SAT LS 11:10

LADY IN THE WATER (PG-13) 9:20

FRI/SAT LS 11:40

PIRATES OF THE CARIBBEAN: DEAD MAN'S CHEST (PG-13) 12:30, 3:30, 6:30, 9:30

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Cause for celebration

Wayne County Community College Chancellor Curtis Ivery and Trustee Liz Potter, from Westland, marked the groundbreaking for the new 70,000 square foot educational and performing arts center at the downriver campus of the college last Friday. The new facility will have an 850 seat multi-purpose auditorium, classrooms and a rehearsal room. Potter told the assembled crowd how proud she was of the accomplishments of the college and the educational opportunities the facility offers students from throughout this area. The center is due to be complete in the fall of 2008.

CHARTER TOWNSHIP OF VAN BUREN NOTICE OF PUBLIC ACCURACY TEST

In compliance with State Election Law 168 Section 798, a Public Hearing will be conducted on Thursday August 3, 2006 at 10:00 a.m. in the Township Hall, 46425 Tyler Road, Belleville, Michigan for the purpose of certifying the program to be used in the counting device which will be utilized to process voter ballots in the Primary Election to be held TUESDAY, AUGUST 8, 2006.

Said meeting is open to the public and any concerned citizens may attend.

The Charter Township of Van Buren will provide, in accordance with the Americans with Disabilities Act, reasonable accommodations with advance notice to the Clerk's Office, 734.699.8909.

Joannie D. Payne, CMC
Township Clerk

Publish: August 3, 2006

ROMULUS COMMUNITY SCHOOLS NOTICE TO ELECTORS Absentee Voter Ballots

TO THE QUALIFIED ELECTORS OF THE ROMULUS COMMUNITY SCHOOL DISTRICT, COUNTY OF WAYNE, STATE MICHIGAN:

Notice is hereby given that ABSENTEE VOTERS BALLOTS are available for the Primary Election to be held Tuesday, August 8, 2006, and may be obtained from the Office of the Romulus City Clerk, 11111 Wayne Road, for electors who expect to be absent from the community, are physically disabled, cannot attend the polls because of the tenets of their religion, or are 60 years of age or older.

Notice is further given that **Saturday, August 5, 2006** is the deadline for the acceptance of Absentee Ballot Applications, in accordance with Section 168.759 of Michigan Compiled Laws of 1948, as amended. The City Clerk's Office will be open from 9:00 a.m. to 2:00 p.m. for the acceptance thereof..

"LATE" ABSENTEE VOTERS APPLICATIONS will be accepted from any registered elector between the hours of 8:00 a.m. and 4:00 p.m. on the day before the election, Monday, August 7, 2006 if the voter shall personally appear at the Clerk's office. Said ballot may not be taken out of the Clerk's office but must be voted immediately.

EMERGENCY ABSENTEE VOTERS APPLICATIONS will be issued to any registered elector prior to 4:00 p.m. on Election Day if he/she shall become physically disabled or shall be absent from the City of Romulus because of sickness or death in the family which occurred at a time that has made it impossible to apply for Absentee Ballots by the statutory deadline.

Linda R. Choate, CMC, Clerk
City of Romulus, Michigan

Publish: August 3, 2006

Hazardous waste day set

Andrea King
Staff Writer

The Wayne County Department of Environment will host a household hazardous waste collection from 9 a.m. to 3 p.m. on Saturday at Bishop Park, located at VanAlstyne Street in Wyandotte.

All household hazardous waste items will be accepted at no cost to Wayne County residents only. Examples of acceptable items include: household paints, stains, dyes, floor wax, floor care products, carpet cleaner, furniture polish, bathroom cleaner, stain removers, medicine, nail polish, glue, fertilizer, lawn and garden chemicals, pesticide, antifreeze, motor oil, gasoline, automotive batteries, dry cell batteries, propane tanks, computer monitors, printers, scanners, keyboards, mouse, cell

phones, fax machines, VCR/cable box televisions and tires (only passenger vehicles tires with a maximum of 10 per vehicle.)

Items that will not be accepted are: commercial waste, industrial waste, smoke detectors, radioactive material, explosives, ammunition, asbestos, 55-gallon drums, unknown/unlabeled wastes, shock sensitive materials, fire extinguishers, household trash, refrigerators, microwaves or other appliances and concrete.

In addition, a mercury thermometer exchange will take place. A safe digital thermometer will be given to individuals bringing a mercury thermometer for disposal.

For more information, contact the Wayne County Department of Health at 734-326-3936.

CITY OF ROMULUS NOTICE NOTICE OF PUBLIC ACCURACY TEST

Pursuant to and by authority conferred upon me by the Secretary of State by Section 794C of Act No. 116 of the Public Act of 1954, as amended, notice is hereby given that a Public Accuracy Test shall be conducted the Election Commission of the City of Romulus at 3:00 p.m. Friday, August 4, 2006 in the Clerk's Office, 11111 South Wayne Road, for the purpose of certifying the programs to be used in the counting devices which will be utilized to process Ballots in the August 8, 2006, Primary Election. Said Meeting is open to the public and any concerned citizen may attend.

Linda R. Choate, CMC,
Clerk City of Romulus, Michigan
Ph. 734-942-7540

THIS IS AN OPEN MEETING!

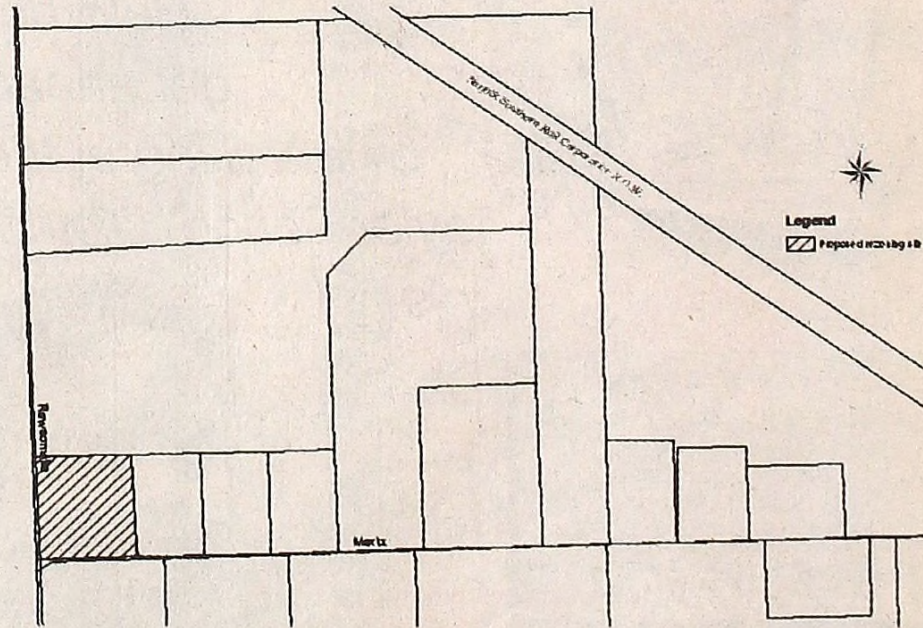
Publish: August 3, 2006

CHARTER TOWNSHIP OF VAN BUREN PLANNING COMMISSION PUBLIC HEARING

Notice is hereby given that the Charter Township of Van Buren Planning Commission will hold a public hearing in the Board of Trustees Room, 46425 Tyler Road, Charter Township of Van Buren, County of Wayne, Michigan, 48111 on Wednesday **August 9, 2006 at 7:30 p.m.** to consider a zoning change on the following described property:

Parcel number V125-83-122-99-0012-000 approximately 1.46 acres proposed to be rezoned from M-2 Industrial Transportation to C-2 Extensive Highway Business.

A map indicating the location of the subject site is included below.



This property is located on the southeast corner of Rawsonville and Martz Roads.

Written comments will be accepted at the Department of Developmental Services until 5:00 p.m. on the hearing date of August 9, 2006.

In the spirit of compliance with the Americans with Disabilities Act, individuals with a disability should feel free to contact the Department of Developmental Services, at least seventy-two (72) hours in advance of the meeting, if requesting accommodations.

Posted July 27, 2006
Publish: July 27, 2006
August 3, 2006

SPORTS

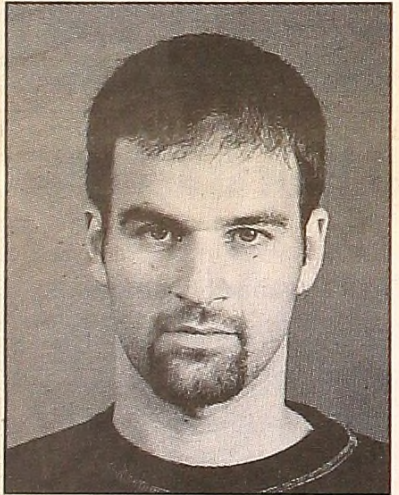


Workers from Sportexe rolled out the green carpet last Friday at Compuware in Plymouth Township to get the arena ready for the Detroit Ignition's indoor soccer season set to start in November.

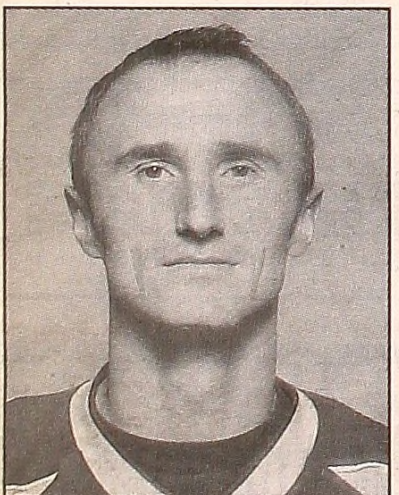
Compuware gets make over, Ignition signs 'Inaugural 6'

Jeff Novak and
Jason Carmel Davis
Staff Writers

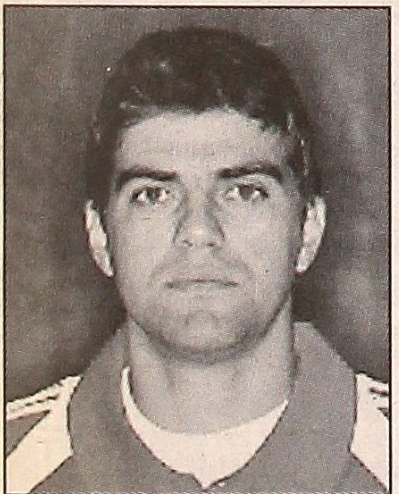
They lifted here. They tugged a little there. They measured, stretched and pulled it into place. And, after about 12 hours and a little fine-tuning it eventually was a perfect fit.



Kyt Selaidopoulos



Novi Marojevic



Sanaldo

No, it wasn't the Chicago Bears fitting William 'The Refrigerator' Perry back into his 1985 jersey.

It was Compuware Sports Arena—home of the Plymouth Whalers—that was fitted for its new look.

Friday afternoon, a platoon of men from Sportexe unraveled massive rolls of green artificial turf across the once icy surface of the arena. It was all in preparation for the Major League Indoor Soccer (MLIS) Detroit Ignitions' inaugural season, set to kick off in November.

It wasn't the only sign of life in the Ignition organization recently. Earlier in the week the club signed six of its expansion draft picks—players that will go down in history as the Ignitions' 'Inaugural 6.'

Ignition president Greg Bibb said the indoor soccer club agreed to terms with forwards Carlos "Chile" Farias, Hewerton Moreira, and Novi Marojevic. The team also signed midfielder Kyt Selaidopoulos, defender Jonathon Greenfield, and netminder Sanaldo.

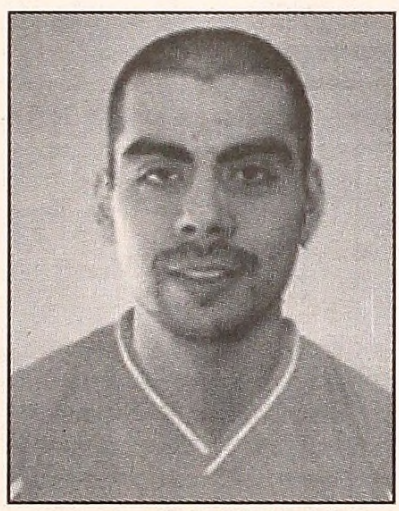
"One of our goals coming into the first season was to create a solid nucleus to build around," Ignition head coach Mark Pulisic said. "The players that have agreed to terms with the club are committed to the team and are going to work extremely hard for our first-year club.

"We have a group of guys I feel comfortable with and I am extremely excited for them to come here in October and start this journey with me."

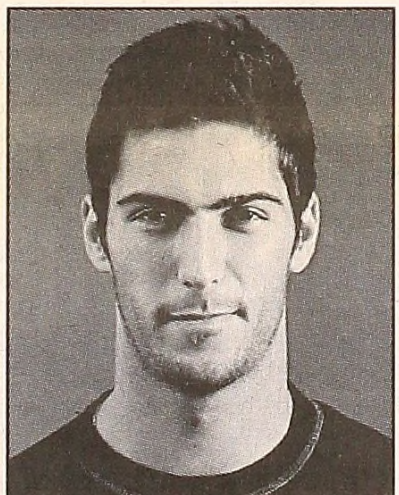
Per club policy, financial terms of the agreements were not disclosed.

Farias led the league with 34 assists last season and was voted to the 2005-06 All-MISL Second Team. As a member of the 2006 league championship series participant St. Louis Steamers, Farias recorded three goals and four assists in five postseason games, following a team high 49 points during the regular season.

As a member of the Milwaukee



Carlos "Chile" Farias



Jonathon Greenfield



Hewerton Moreira

Wave in 2005-06, Hewerton posted 13 points in 29 games, including eight goals. Hewerton, 26, split time in his first professional indoor soccer season—2004-05—with the San Diego Sockers and the eventual league champion Wave.

Marojevic is a nine-year veteran of indoor soccer. He began playing with the Kansas City Attack during the 1996-97 season. As captain of the Chicago Storm last year, Marojevic scored 16

See Ignition, page 13

Soon to expire grant helps physically impaired athletes

Jeff Novak
Staff Writer

Soccer, swimming, hockey, golf and even martial arts are just some programs now available for athletes with special needs.

It's all due, in part, to a county grant that helps fund Therapeutic Recreation programs throughout western Wayne County.

The concept of therapeutic recreation isn't new and neither is the grant from the Wayne County Parks millage.

Wayne County Department of Public Services Parks and Recreation Division provided \$200,000 in funding for such programs from a grant begun in 2004. That funding established the Western Wayne County Therapeutic Recreation (WWCTR) that helps distribute money for the communities involved. Canton, Dearborn, Livonia, Northville, Plymouth, Van Buren, Wayne and Westland.

Persons with disabilities are able to take part in various programs, events, activities and sports because of the grant.

Jessica Hohenburger, a certified therapeutic recreational specialist, is the WWCTR Coordinator based at the Summit in Canton Township. She feels the grant money is extremely helpful in bringing these programs to those that need them.

"Most of the programs provided would not have been able to continue without the help of the grant money," she said. "It also allows communities to make the programs more affordable for participants."

Some programs like the popular Adapted Swim Lessons and Sled Hockey hosted at the Summit and Arctic Edge in Canton would be hard to maintain without the help of the WWCTR pro-

grams, she said. Others events like Here Fishy, Fishy, Fishy! (Aug. 12), which is offered through a combination of the Van Buren and Westland therapeutic recreation departments along with the WWCTR and the WWCTR Canoe Outing (Sept. 9) in conjunction with the Westland Therapeutic Recreation Program (TRP) are made more affordable (\$13.50 and \$15 respectively) for those in Wayne County wishing to participate. Costs are a little higher for non-residents.

Westland Parks and Recreation, which just received an award for Excellence in Programming for "offering a variety of recreational activities and programs for people with impairments in the West Wayne County community" from the Michigan Recreation and Park Association, has offered therapeutic recreation for 25 years in one form or another, according to Westland Therapeutic Supervisor Margaret Martin.

Four years ago, Westland TRP teamed up with Westland Special Olympics and created a golf class and golf team with cooperation with Westland Municipal Golf Course. Last year they formed the Motor City Eagles Power Soccer team that allows power wheelchair users to play soccer with an oversized ball and nets on a basketball court. The Westland TRP also co-sponsors the Westland Wizards Wheelchair Basketball team and the Warriors of Westland Sports Team for the Physically Impaired that includes practice and competition in sports like track, field, bocce, swimming, bowling, slalom, weightlifting and rifle shooting.

"Some of the therapeutic recreational programs are a

See Therapy, page 13



Adapted swim lessons instructor Lindsay Charlefour works with swimmer Kevin Bur in Canton at the Summit.

SPORTS

Northville golfers dominate tour

Matt Whalen
Staff Writer

Joseph James Szmazdzinski (or JJ) and Kirsten Freisen of Northville could be the next Tiger Woods and Annika Sorinstam playing in the Top 50 Jr. Tour.

The tour has three tour zones: central Michigan southeast Michigan, west Michigan. Freisen plays in the southeast division while Szmazdzinski participates in the southeast and west divisions. Each week, 50 student golfers from each tour zone play a qualifying round. Those who qualify at these weekly rounds, get an opportunity to play free tournament golf at public and private golf clubs around Michigan.

Based on their order of finish in tournament play, players earn player of the year points, which help them earn scholarship benefits for college. Currently, Freisen is second overall in the girls 15 and younger southeast division with 428 player of the year points. Szmazdzinski has earned 329 player of the year points thus far in the southeast boys 15 and younger division, and 283 points in the west division. Besides participating in tour events, scholarship benefits can also be earned by writing essays on golf related topics, performing community service and having a strong grade point average.

"The format of this tour makes it unique, especially with the scholarship opportunities, said Daniel Thomas, director of the tour and a PGA professional. "At the end of the year, a player's player of the year points are multiplied by their G.P.A. to determine the total value of their scholarship."

Freisen and Szmazdzinski have both been invited to play in the state championship Aug. 7 at Flushing Valley Golf Club. The championship will be televised, according to Thomas. In the last two tournaments in the southeast division, at Lakeland Golf & Country Club and Oak Pointe Country Club, Szmazdzinski has shot an 82 and finished second at Oak Pointe with a 72.

Freisen shot a 202 at Lakeland and finished first in her division at Oak Pointe with a 91. Szmazdzinski also recently won a tournament at The Meadows Golf Club shooting a 74. Freisen and Szmazdzinski's stroke averages during tournament play in the southeast division are a 77.4 and 99.33 respectively.

"Both Joe and Kirsten have outstanding futures in golf and I wish them well in the state championship and beyond," Thomas said.

Currently 14, Szmazdzinski first learned his swing between the ages of 6 and 7 when

his parents signed him up for a golf clinic at the Plymouth YMCA. In the past few years, Szmazdzinski feels that he now really understands his the game and how to perfect his swing thanks to club pro, Ted Talksson.

"I enjoy playing in the Top 50 Tour because of the competition and the fact that everyone is so supportive. The tour directors and PGA pros are real role models for me," Szmazdzinski said.

Szmazdzinski has played in a total of 13 Top 50 Jr. Tournaments, winning six in addition to three qualifying rounds. He has won one Michigan PGA Junior Tournament and has three more wins with the Lake Michigan Junior Golf Tour. Szmazdzinski was also invited to play 9 holes with a pro at the Dearborn Seniors Pro Am, where he shot a five under par 31. He hopes to have his own career in professional golf either as a swing coach, or



J.J. Szmazdzinski takes his shot during one of the many Top 50 Jr. Tour competition. He has won six Top 50 Tournaments so far.

maybe even on the PGA Tour. On the way to reaching his goal though, Szmazdzinski is just excited for the opportunity to play in the state championships.

Freisen, who just turned 16, first became interested in golf when her dad and grandpa convinced her to come golfing with them. Since then, she has been hooked. Freisen first took golfing lessons at the age of eight and has been playing in tournaments since her freshmen year of high school.

"I enjoy playing in the Top 50 Tour because I get to meet people and play such a wide variety of talent. I learn something new each time I play," she said.

Unfortunately, Freisen will not be able to play in the state championships for the second straight year due to a prior commitment. However, she is looking forward to the challenge of playing in a new age group next year.



Kirsten Freisen chips onto the green in a recent Top 50 competition. She recently won the 15 & under girls' division at Oak Pointe.



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SPORTS

Therapy

FROM PAGE 11

part of the recreation budget through the City of Westland,” Martin said. “But the money from the county has definitely eased some of the pain for us.”

The grant made it possible for Westland TRP to partner with the WWCTR to offer new programs like an adapted martial arts class for children available to all Wayne County residents, according to Martin.

Van Buren township, on the other hand, did not have a strong therapeutic recreation program but that changed with the grant in 2004, according to Jennifer Morris, Van Burens’ deputy director of recreation and facilities.

“We have offered a few therapeutic classes in the past but with this grant we can offer more activities,” she said.

“A few times a year meetings are held for all communities in western Wayne to brainstorm ideas on what community would like to offer various therapeutic classes. We don’t want to compete with communities so the programs are varied at each recreation department.”

Hohenberger said the programs help on a variety of levels like increase social interaction, self confidence, independence, stimulation and coordination, functioning of mind and body, motivation to take new risks and increase community integration skills.

“It is very important for people with disabilities to have leisure and recreation in their lives,” she said. “Sometimes they don’t adapt properly; these programs help. Also with these programs communities show an interest to provide for everybody in the community regardless of disability or not.”



Members of The Victory Park Penguins sled hockey team, who take to the ice at the Arctic Edge in Canton for practice.

“Parents are amazed to learn we have specific programs for children with special needs,” added Morris. “So they are pleased to find out their community they live in can offer such a range of programs. At Van Buren Township we believe in ‘Access for All.’ Although the grant provides more funding for more programs, therapeutic recreation, on a whole, isn’t a new idea.

What is new is the fact that the grant that had helped enrich these programs will expire in September. The communities that take part in them are hoping for a renewal.

Hohenberger is required to submit progress of the programs to the county.

“The county will determine if and for how long to extend the grant,” she said. “I think there are enough people interested

now and that would be disappointed if it is not renewed.”

She said if it is renewed she hopes to expand some of the more successful programs.

“We definitely want to see the grant continue for many years to come,” Morris said. “The word is getting out about the program but more still needs to be accomplished. ‘Creating community through people, parks and programs’ are words to live by. So with the assistance of this grant program we can continue to offer the residents a community without limitations.”

For more information on WWCTR or to find schedules of upcoming therapeutic programs go to www.WWCTR.org or contact your local recreation department or Jessica Hohenberger at 734-394-5483.

Ignition

FROM PAGE 11

goals and had 12 assists. He finished tied for 14th in league scoring.

After playing several seasons of professional soccer in Canada, Selaidopoulos came back to the United States in 2004-05 and had a strong showing as a member of the Cleveland Force. Selaidopoulos put up 16 points in 28 games last season with the Milwaukee Wave. Selaidopoulos is also a member of the futsal Canada team.

Greenfield made his U.S. professional debut during the 2004-05 campaign. Greenfield scored seven goals for the Milwaukee Wave over the course of last season and has been a part of the African National Team Program since the Under-14 level.

Sanaldo, the Ignition’s first overall selection in the 2006 expansion draft, spent last season with the Baltimore Blast where he minded the net for their successful championship run. As a rookie during the 2003-04 campaign, Sanaldo won his first six games and was named to the MISL’s 2004 All-Rookie Team. Sanaldo has a career goals against average of 5.49.

“This group of signings signals a successful start to the construction of our inaugural roster,” Bibb said. “There will be plenty of talent in our locker room, the key will be how these individuals mesh to form the first edition of the Detroit Ignition.”

CLASSIFIED

01. Obituaries	31. Help Wanted Sales	50. Pets & Supplies	64. Lawn & Garden Supplies	78. Hunting / Fishing	98. Mobile Homes for Rent	110. Lots for Sale
02. In Memoriam	32. Help Wanted Drivers	54. Rummage Sales	65. Tree Service	82. Wanted to Buy	99. Flats for Rent	111. Out of State Property
03. Cards of Thanks	33. Child Care	55. Estate Sales	66. Landscape / Nurseries	87. Room for Rent	100. Will Share	112. Commercial Lease
04. Monuments & Cemetery Plots	34. Specialized Services	56. Flea Markets	67. Garden Plant / Supplies	88. Duplexes for Rent	101. Wanted to Rent	113. Real Estate Wanted
05. Personals/Announcements	35. Situations Wanted	57. Antiques	68. Garden / Produce	89. Apartments for Rent	102. Storage	114. Auto Accessories
06. Legal Notices	40. Business Opportunity	58. Garage and Yard Sales	70. Masonry / Brickwork	90. Condos/Townhouses for Rent	103. Business Property for Sale	115. Autos for Sale
07. Attorneys	42. Health and Fitness	59. Auctions	72. Machinery Tools	92. Business Places for Rent	104. Farms & Acreage for Sale	116. Antique & Classic Cars
08. Entertainment	43. Money to Loan	60. Misc. Sales	73. Musical Merchandise	93. Banquet Halls	105. Mobile Homes for Sale	117. Trucks & Vans for Sale
09. Lost & Found	44. Music/Art Lessons	61. Misc. Items	74. Sporting Goods	94. Farm Land for Rent	106. Houses for Sale	118. Freebies
10. Coming Events	45. Adult Care	62. Building Supplies	75. Boats / Accessories	95. Real Estate	107. Condos/Townhouses for Sale	119. Auto Repairs
30. Help Wanted	46. Private Schools/Instruction	63. Business and Office Equipment	76. Remodeling & Renovations	96. Houses for Rent	108. Lake and Resort	120. Motorcycles
	47. Riding/Horses/Stables		77. Recreation Vehicles	97. Cottages for Rent	109. Income Property	121. Autos Wanted

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59. Auctions

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Space #201
Omar A. Mitchell Sr.
Misc small appliances, TV/Electronics, hshld. furnishings, hshld. goods, boxes/bags, recreation equipment, other misc. items
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S&J Heating & Cooling, Inc.
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Notice is hereby given that on 8/23/06 at 1:00 pm, the following will be sold by competitive bidding at:

Stor-N-Lock
7840 N. Wayne Rd.
Westland, MI

Space E-28, Kiwatha Boyd: Misc. small appliances, TV/Electronics, household furnishings, household goods, boxes/bags, clothing, recreation equipment, other misc. items, Space M-36, Reggie Simmons: Household furnishings, boxes/bags, clothing, hand tools, power tools, recreation equipment, other misc. items, Space L-22: Household furnishings,

other misc. items, Space C-13, Edgar Sturgill: Boxes/bags, hand tools, power tools, recreation equipment, other misc. items, Space Household appliances, misc. small appliances, TV/electronics, household furnishings, household goods, boxes/bags, other misc. items, Space H-20, Jay Brown: Misc. small appliances, household furnishings, household goods, boxes/bags, toys, other misc. items, Space L-19, David T. Carrell: Household furnishings, boxes/bags, hand tools, power tools, other misc. items

STOR-ALL
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11:00 AM
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Unit D186-James Theide:
Jeep, furniture, kitchen items, misc.

Unit G354-Dureyah Tatum:
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Unit 1005-Virgil
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Unit G344-Irene
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61. Misc. Items

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FOOD

Down on the farm

Local cooks show off in latest Rustic Chef event



Tony Yaquinto and Anthony Senatore impressed the judges and audience with their culinary skills and imaginative use of ingredients during the Rustic Chef competition.

bemused by the sweet drink they were required to use in their meal preparation. They had a plan within a few minutes, however, and were off to Meijer, the event sponsor, to purchase additional ingredients to complement, or disguise, what they'd been given.

The chefs had to use all the ingredients provided in the cooler, which they had not seen until that morning, to prepare a meal to dazzle judges Lauren Hess, who moderates the Newsmakers show for Comcast Cable, Debra Pope, Alan Goldsmith and Susan Willett, publisher of The Journal Newspapers.

And dazzle they did. They had an hour to plan, an hour to shop with the \$50 gift certificate Meijer provided and an hour to prepare their meal using only a charcoal grill. The plates had to be served to the judges at 2 p.m.

Schlander and Quatrochi prepared miniature Napoleons using potato slices filled with grilled tuna slices and zucchini. They topped their creation off with a chili flavored sweet sauce which included the Hawaiian Punch. They reduced the drink to a syrup in a pan over the hot coals on the grill and then added bottled chili sauce and spices to create and sweet and spicy sauce which they also used their presentation to maximum effect.

Meanwhile Yaquinto and Senatore grilled the tuna and opened ears of corn which they spread with a mixture of jalapenos, chopped extra fine and butter. They slathered the kernels on the cob, re-husked the ears, minus any cornsilk, and placed them on the grill.

They were cooked to perfection and the combination of the jalapenos and sweetness of the corn and butter wowed the judges.

Their Hawaiian Punch went into a marinade for the tuna steaks, which were then slathered with a black olive and jalapeno tapenade (made right on the spot). They topped this with the crushed peanuts to make a light crust, and then put the tuna on the grill until it was done to perfection. (Well, for this judge, anyhow.) But the judges were unanimous, the showstopper was the bean salad, made without a recipe and with ingredients on hand by Schlander and Quatrochi.

The combination of textures and flavors would complement just about anything on the grill and it is a perfect summer salad or picnic dish.

Named as the winners of the day, the Schlander and Quatrochi were presented with the official iron skilled trophy and the compliments of the judges and crowd.

The next competition will be the championships at the farm on Sept. 30. The public is invited and admission to the farm is included.



Bill Schlander and Ray Quatrochi take special care with their winning efforts at the Rustic Chef competition at Maybury Farm earlier this month.



Rustic Chef Bean Salad

- 2 cans cannellini beans (drained)
 - 1 squeeze of half a key lime
 - ¼ cup olive oil
 - Pinch of salt, pepper, oregano, basil
 - 1/8 cup black olives, chopped fine
 - 1/8 cup canned, pickled jalapenos, chopped fine
 - ½ cup chopped sundried tomatoes
 - 3 ears roasted corn on the cob, kernels removed (or about a cup or so of cooked, frozen corn kernels)
- Mix all ingredients together, season with salt and pepper to taste and serve.

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